

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06281 281249Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 NEAE-00 /011 W
-----125205 281251Z /53-R

O R 281155Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3149
INFO USLO RIYADH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, SA
SUBJECT: REPORT OF LIQUOR SMUGGLING TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: STATE 214088

1. FROM OUR EXPERIENCE WITH SAUDI CUSTOMS AND OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT USG WOULD GAIN ANY POINTS WITH SAG BY ALLOWING U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE TO INFORM SAUDI CUSTOMS OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SAUDI LAW. USG WOULD BE IN EFFECT HELPING TO ENFORCE SAUDI LAW, AND WE HAVE IN PAST TOLD SAG OFFICIALS THAT USG TELLS U.S. CITIZENS THAT THEY MUST ABIDE BY SAUDI LAWS WHILE THEY ARE IN KINGDOM BUT THAT USG DOES NOT HELP ENFORCE THOSE LAWS.

2. WHILE SAUDI PENALTIES FOR ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS REMAIN SEVERE (FLOGGING, PRISON TERMS, STIFF FINES, DEPORTATION), DRINKING AMONG EXPATRIATES AND MANY "WESTERNIZED" SAUDIS HERE REMAINS WIDESPREAD, SIMILAR TO OUR OWN PROHIBITION PERIOD IN THE U.S. SMUGGLING ALCOHOL IS ENDEMIC FROM ALL COUNTRIES REGULARLY SUPPLYING IMPORTS. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER SUPPLIER COUNTRY WHICH IS UNDERTAKING AN EFFORT SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH CUSTOMS PROPOSES IN REFTEL TO PREVENT THEIR CITIZENS FROM EXPORTING REPEAT EXPORTING ALCOHOL TO SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY SEES NO JUSTIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 06281 281249Z

FOR SINGLEING OUT U.S. EXPORTERS AND AMCITS RESIDENT IN THIS DESERT NATION FOR MORE RIGOROUS PROSECUTION FOR ALCOHOL OFFENSES THAN THEIR FRIENDLY COLLEAGUES AND COMPETITORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT THE SPECIAL STATUS THESE SHIPMENTS ENJOY IS ENTRY AS MILITARY IMPORTS. IF SAUDI FIRM

MENTIONED IN PARA 2 IS UNITED TRADING AND ENGINEERING CO. (VICE UNITED TRADERS AND ENGINEERS), IT ACTS AS AN "ADVISOR" FOR MILITARY SALES TO THE SAG. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF AUTOLOGIC IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. IT SEEMS TO US THAT BETTER COURSE OF ACTION BY USG WOULD HAVE U.S. CUSTOMS WARN FIRMS IN QUESTION THAT THEY ARE VIOLATING SAUDI LAW AND THAT U.S. CITIZENS INVOLVED COULD END UP IN SAUDI PRISON OR ON FLOGGING BENCH.
WEST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SMUGGLING, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA06281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-1335
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780818/aaaaaoyu.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 251ef25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 214088
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1604795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF LIQUOR SMUGGLING TO SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: ETRD, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/251ef25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014